

Defense Counsel Helps Military Clients

By Sgt. Merrion LaSonde
122nd MPAD

TAJI, Iraq- Watching a defendant being questioned in a military courtroom on the television show JAG can be very entertaining. But, in real life, it is a different story. When a Soldier at Camp Taji is facing punitive action, they can take heart in knowing that Capt. Marci Pettay, Trial Defense Counsel, is there to help.

"I'm active duty, but I don't belong to any unit in the Army," Pettay said. "Part of the reason for that is if we belonged to say the 1st [Cavalry Division Judge Advocate General] office then we would be limited in the clients we could see. Thus, keeping us separate from any units allows me to do my job. Most importantly, remaining separate from the Soldiers' units lets my clients know that we share an attorney-client relationship and that I represent them, not the command."

Pettay's area of operations covers Afghanistan, Kuwait and Iraq. Like her legal counterparts, Pettay was deployed as a single element. Stationed on Fort Hood, Texas and ready to travel throughout her region, she will be based out of Camp Taji for approximately two more months, at which time she will be replaced by another TDS.

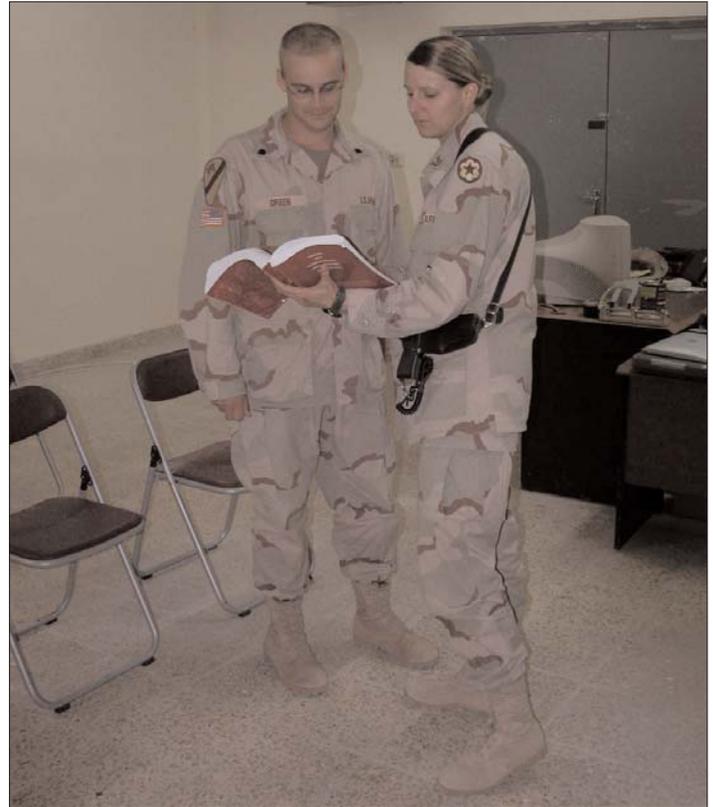
"Most of my trials are in Baghdad," Pettay said. "I have several clients on other [Forward Operating Bases] as well, [and] I travel to my clients and to the crime

scenes."

The office at Camp Taji is where Pettay and her paralegal, Spc. Landon Green, advise clients of their rights and perform the research necessary for upcoming cases. Pettay handles a broad spectrum of cases from insubordination and larceny to Rules of Engagement violations and rape.

"We have priority one and priority two cases," Pettay said. "Priority one are courts martial and range from special to general. That is where a Soldier is actually facing a federal conviction with a trial before a judge. Priority two are suspect rights, Article 15 and Chapter clients. If a Soldier is afraid that they could be court martialed or that they might have done something wrong and they want to talk to an attorney, they can come in and ask me 'what do I do?' If [the Criminal Investigation Division] or a Soldier's command wants to question them and they have been read their rights, they can invoke their Article 31 rights and come see me about their right to remain silent. We can discuss whether or not it is appropriate for them to make a statement."

A barred attorney in Maryland, who calls Cape Cod, Mass. home, Pettay has been in the JAG corps for nearly six years. "To be a JAG officer, you have to be a barred attorney. I was offered my commission while in law school. After I



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Capt. Marci Pettay, Trial Defense Counsel, relies heavily on her paralegal, Spc. Landon Green. The star patch that Pettay wears represents the independent status of her office as TDS.

graduated law school and passed the bar, I was allowed to report for [the Officer Basic Course]. If you don't pass the bar, you are not invited to accept your commission."

As in most cases, Pettay was a prosecutor before she was a defense counsel.

"It is preferable to have someone in defense litigation that has experience as a prosecutor," she said. "If you make mistakes as a prosecutor, it is the government that loses. But, if you make mistakes as a defense

counsel that could mean someone's life."

Of the things that Pettay would want the Soldiers facing punitive action to know, foremost is the fact that she and the members of her office are there for them.

"We are available to them," Pettay said. "This is a service the Army provides. When they come in my office they can expect a straight shooter. I will defend them vehemently, but I will also tell them how it is and where they stand."

Dental Hygienist Helps Soldiers Smile

By Spc. Jan Critchfield
122nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Since deploying to Iraq, Cpl. Andrea Russell of Forward Support Medical Company E, 215th Forward Support Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, has proven to be essential to the success of her platoon. For her efforts, Russell was named 215th FSB Hero of the Week.

Working as a dental hygienist, the Moreno Valley, Calif. native is everything a noncommissioned officer should be: diligent, task focused, motivated, and a good leader. Capt. Joseph Choi, 3rd Brigade dental surgeon said.

"It's been a pleasure

working with her," Choi said. "She's very studious, very hard working. There's a lot beyond the dental realm that she's had to do and has been doing a very good job."

She has performed over 20 teeth cleanings and assisted in 350 dental procedures since her deployment. Going out into various Baghdad communities, Russell has also seen over 500 Iraqi citizens during two medical civic assistance programs.

"Corporal Russell is an outstanding Soldier," 2nd Lt. Martha Hart, Treatment Platoon leader said, "You give her a task, and it's done, automatically."

When the Treatment Platoon's sterilizer, an



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Cpl. Andrea Russell (right) helps 3rd BCT Dental Surgeon Capt. Joseph Choi with a dental procedure.

essential piece of equipment used to disinfect dental instruments, stopped working, Russell was relentless in her efforts to

get the essential piece of equipment up and running.

"She knows her equipment," Hart said. "She knows what she's doing."



Family Heirlooms.....

CHERISH and PROTECT

AND REMOVE BEFORE WORK...



Celebration De Herencia Hispanica (Hispanic Heritage Celebration) 24 Sept. 2004

6:30am: 5K and 10K run at MWR.
Free T-Shirts for first 800 finishers.

11:30am - 1:00pm: Ethnic lunch at all DFACs.

7:00pm: Showcase of Hispanic culture featuring the 1st. Cav. Div. Salsa Band at the MWR stage.

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

Do you speak English?
tatakallam injileeze

Tuesday High: 102 Low: 72 	Wednesday High: 104 Low: 74 	Thursday High: 106 Low: 76 
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Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

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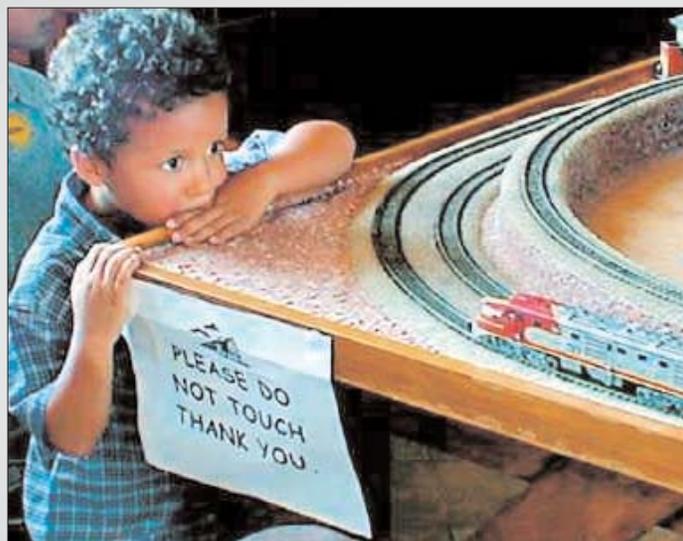
News Notes

Mortgage Fraud is Rampant FBI Says

WASHINGTON (AP) - Through the first nine months of 2004, mortgage companies and banks have reported more than 12,100 instances of suspicious activity compared with only 4,220 in 2001. The FBI currently has 533 pending mortgage fraud investigations, compared with 102 in 2001. Law enforcement officials say the lending and refinancing boom that accompanied record low interest rates in the past few years is a key reason for the increased fraud. The FBI has identified several "hot spots" around the country where fraud is especially prevalent, including Florida, California, Nevada, Michigan, Missouri and Illinois.

Multiplayer Games Sell Cellphones

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) - As millions buy increasingly powerful cell phones, many companies are racing to develop video games to take advantage of the newfound portability. The newest twist is multiplayer: You can face real people in space battles or fishing tournaments. Until recently, multiplayer on cell phones game meant at most posting high scores on a leader board. Market Research says cellphone sales are up 35 percent compared to last year. Many of the new phones have color screens, extra memory, fast processors and other enhancements, making them attractive video game machines.



Temple Daily Telegram

Caleb Shuler, 4, of Temple watches a model train set at the Texas Train Festival, held at the Santa Fe Depot last week. The event has for most of the time been an annual event for the past two decades and its main purpose is to heighten awareness about railroads. The museum was semi-successful in recruiting retired railroad workers to tell rail stories on tape as part of an oral history program. Sunday many festival goers took a ride on the Texas Eagle, Amtrak's featured train.

VA Hospital Opens Six New Outpatient Clinics

HOUSTON (AP) - Officials at the Veterans Affairs medical center in Houston are hoping U.S. Sen. John Cornyn can help them open six outpatient clinics in surrounding areas to better serve patients.

Cornyn, R-Texas, on Saturday toured the Michael E. DeBakey Veteran Affairs Medical Center, which treats about 80,000 patients and expects to care for more.

"If someone has to drive to Houston from East Texas, they are likely to put off their health care needs until they become a lot more urgent, perhaps an emergency situation," Cornyn said. "So these outlying clinics, I think, are a very important component of quality care for veterans. And I think they are certainly a wonderful idea."

Edgar L. Tucker, director of the medical center, said federal funding has been secured to open an outpatient clinic in Galveston by 2005. He also would like to see federal funding allocated to open clinics in Conroe, Tomball,

Katy, Richmond and Lake Jackson. The center currently operates outpatient clinics in Beaumont and Lufkin.

Nationally, the VA is working to shift services to areas where veterans live, opening hospitals or clinics where needed and shutting down those where veteran populations are shrinking.

The VA expects to reduce costs for maintaining vacant space from \$3.4 billion to \$750 million by 2022 but predicts spending \$6 billion on construction during that time.

"We know that distance and time are barriers to access to health care for you and I, as well as for veterans," Tucker said. "The goal is to make the best use of facilities we have." States such as Florida, Texas and Arizona are seeing sharp increases in demand for health care by veterans, he said, while demand in other areas are decreasing.

Surely, part of the answer is to have more ready access to a clinic, where per-

haps if it is a matter of maintaining your medications or getting your vital signs monitored or blood tests that can be done there, you can get that and pretty much stay close to home," Cornyn said. "If you need more serious care, then you can come to places like this."

Donival R. Turner, 55, was among the veterans receiving care Saturday at the Houston VA. Turner, who served in the Marines in 1969 and recently had surgery on his neck, said he lives in La Grange and that the 100-mile trip each way is quite a tax on him.

"I really don't have transportation and so sometimes, I have to pay a person \$40 or \$50 just to come down here and that is just too much money," said Turner, who sat in a wheelchair and had a neck brace on and a hat bearing the American flag. "There are a lot of veterans who can't get where they want to go, they are too far gone. And some don't have the money to go."

Astros Outduel Brewers, 1-0

HOUSTON (AP) - Roger Clemens could scarcely contain his glee, practically skipping off the mound and pumping his fist after his final strikeout of the night.

The Astros had plenty to celebrate after the Rocket's 328th win. Houston beat the Milwaukee Brewers 1-0 Sunday night to complete a three-game sweep and remain a game behind San Francisco in the NL wild-card race.

"He was phenomenal. He was just fantastic tonight," Astros manager Phil Garner said. "You wish you could just take a little bit of this and give it to the younger guys just to show them how it's done."



Houston Astros starting pitcher Roger Clemens delivers a pitch in the first inning against the Brewers Sunday.

Clemens won his sixth straight start. Houston, which has won four straight, kept pace with the Giants and also

remained a half-game behind the Chicago Cubs in the playoff chase. The Astros are off Monday, then start a critical three-game series at San Francisco the following day.

Clemens (18-4) retired his final 13 batters, striking out Scott Podsednik to end the eighth. The crowd of 35,678 was almost as pumped as Clemens, giving him a rousing standing ovation as he headed back to the dugout.

"It had to be this way," Clemens said. "I knew I had to be mistake-free."

He moved into sole possession of 10th on the career wins list, one ahead of John Clarkson and one behind Steve Carlton.

Beatles Visit to Ark. Remembered

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) - Forty years later, Carrie Mae Snapp is still aglow over her brush with The Beatles.

Sunday marked the 40th anniversary of the Beatles' improbable, clandestine arrival in Walnut Ridge, population 4,925, and Monday marked 40 years since a throng - including a teenage Snapp - got wind of their visit and surrounded the British megastars as they left for a concert in New York.

It was the musical legends' only visit to Arkansas, a moment still worth remembering for many in Walnut Ridge.

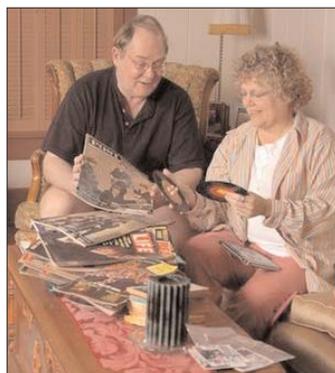
"This was a life-changing event and it sort of validated us in our isolated, little town," Snapp said. "How many times did the Beatles come to Arkansas? In 1964, at the

height of their fame, what were the chances of it? Sputnik could have fallen on us more easily."

It was unlikely even from the Beatles' perspective. They only landed in Walnut Ridge because it had an old air base with long enough runways to handle their large plane. Between a concert in Dallas and a benefit for cerebral palsy in New York's Times Square, the road-weary band took a 36-hour break at a dude ranch near Alton, Mo.

Walnut Ridge was, and still is, a church-going town. But this was 1964, just eight months after the Beatles' first appearance on "Ed Sullivan" and one day before they returned home to Liverpool.

About 300 people, most screaming and swooning, showed up to



Friends Russ Boyd and Carrie Mae Snapp look through Beatles memorabilia Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2004, at Snapp's home in Walnut Ridge, Ark. They still revel in the Beatles' quick visit to their small Delta town.

see the Beatles off at Walnut Ridge. Nearly as many people turned out at the gate at Pigman's ranch near Alton, but somehow, the event didn't have the same impact there.

Sports Shorts

U.S. Suffers Worst Ryder Loss Ever

BLOOMFIELD, Mich. (AP) - Europe again proved to be the best in the Ryder Cup with its greatest performance Sunday, handing the Americans their worst loss in the 77-year history of the tournament. "I don't think we'll be the favorite next time," Phil Mickelson said. "No matter what the world rankings say, I think we'll be the underdog. And hopefully we'll play like they have." Europe has won the Ryder Cup four of the last five times, and seven of 10.

Cowboys Defeat Bumbling Browns

IRVING, Texas (AP) - In a game that featured five interceptions in a span of six possessions - most coming in the fourth quarter - Dallas did enough things right to beat Cleveland 19-12 Sunday. "It's not the kind of game I like to be involved with," Cowboys coach Bill Parcells said. "But, we got away with it." Dallas (1-1) scored just two touchdowns and a field goal despite getting to at least the Cleveland 43-



yard line on 10 of its 11 drives. The rest were squandered by quarterback Vinny Testaverde's pickoffs, a fumble by rookie Julius Jones, a missed field goal and two punts.